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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I support competition and strongly oppose deregulation of internet/broadband for the following reasons.

Choice: I have chosen a small, independent internet and telephone provider the last several years. It is perfect for my needs, which were not well served by a well-known major telecom company. I now receive competitive prices for internet and phone, outstanding service and customer relations, and high standards of customer privacy. My provider is committed to net neutrality, which is a huge issue for individual consumers like myself. They took the initiative to roll out optical fiber in my area, while the big telcom companies left us with ancient, unreliable wiring and internet download speeds around 1 Mb. I was literally unable to watch videos on my computer before I switched from the big corporation. My independent provider also offers many added features at NO extra cost, including an innovative feature that greatly reduces the number of illegal marketing and scam telephone calls.

Costs: If the major telecom companies succeed in their quest for deregulation, costs for most consumers and businesses nationwide will go way up. I am a retiree living on a fixed income, and would find it a burden to pay higher rates to continue service comparable to what I have enjoyed for the past 3 years under existing FCC regulations. FCC should not enable mega-corporations to further increase their profit margins - at the expense of ordinary people and businesses who need and deserve reliable internet service at a reasonable price.

Competition: Should deregulation occur, many or most smaller broadband/ internet providers will be forced out of business, due to unsustainable costs imposed on them by the major telecom companies. These independent providers have offered many choices valuable to consumers and businesses. Their loss would stifle competition, create monopolies in most areas of the country, and leave customers with no choice but to pay a lot more to the big telecom companies for the same or worse service. Lack of competition will also stifle innovations, remove any incentive to improve customer service (which is already on a strong downward trend), and will limit the ability for consumers and business to choose the features and types of service best for their needs. It will be a one-size-fits-all world with higher prices for most, if not all of us.

Coverage: In many areas of the country, independent internet providers are the only options for consumers and businesses. There is minimal incentive for the larger telecom corporations to invest in serving or improving service to remote or rural areas. FCC needs to maintain our existing regulations that make it cost effective for local internet providers to continue serving these communities.

FCC should use its might to support customers ability to choose internet providers that best suit their needs. Deregulation is the wrong choice. It will hurt consumers and the many innovative smaller telecom companies that are laying new fiber and are offering a variety of plans and services.

Thank you for your interest in this vital issue that affects all Americans.

Amy Haskell